

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 107780
ORIGIN EA-09

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DRAFTED BY EA/ROC:MKLOSSON:BDS
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PM/ISO - MR. SCHLAMM (SUBS)
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P 120101Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 107780

STADIS////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OTRA MILI (SMITH, BALDWIN, MORRIS), TW, US

SUBJECT: MILITARY TRAVEL TO TAIWAN FOR MAY

REF: TAIPEI 2465, TAIPEI 2706, TAIPEI 2707, TAIPEI 2289

1. WE HAVE DECIDED NOT TO OBJECT TO THE PROPOSED VISITS OF VADM. BALDWIN (7TH FLEET COMMANDER) AND RADM. MORRIS (COMMANDER OF THE 7TH FLEET AMPHIBIOUS FORCE). IF BALDWIN SEEKS TO TRAVEL TO TAIWAN ABOARD HIS FLAGSHIP AGAIN THIS YEAR, WE WILL TRY TO TURN OFF SUCH A HEADLINE-GATHERING VISIT.

2. THE BALDWIN/MORRIS VISITS HAVE IDENTIFIED AN APPARENT LOOPHOLE IN REGULATIONS GOVERNING MILITARY TRAVEL CLEARANCES FOR TAIWAN. CINCPAC INSTRUCTIONS (4650.4 CH-2, MARCH 11, 1977) STATE THAT ALL SENIOR DOD AND PACIFIC COMMAND PERSONNEL MUST SEEK OUR APPROVAL. YET NEITHER
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BALDWIN NOR MORRIS HAVE. IT MAY BE THAT SENIOR NAVAL OFFICERS VISITING TAIWAN ABOARD THEIR FLAGSHIPS COUNT THESE VISITS AS SHIP CALLS, WHICH REQUIRE ONLY PRIOR NOTIFICATION. WE ARE SEEKING TO CLOSE THIS LOOPHOLE. AS AN INTERIM SOLUTION TO ENSURE TIMELY NOTIFICATION, WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR OBTAINING FROM THE DAO AND INCLUDING IN THE MONTHLY LIST OF SHIPS VISITS TO TAIWAN THE

NAME AND TITLE OF ANY FLAG RANK OFFICER ABOARD. (NON-
STADIS INSTRUCTION FOLLOWS SEPTTEL.)

3. WE HAVE TURNED DOWN THE PROPOSED MAY 13-16 VISIT OF
MAJOR GENERAL SMITH, COMMANDER OF THE THIRD MARINE DIVI-
SION, WHO WANTED TO INSPECT THE 31 MARINE AMPHIBIOUS
UNIT ABOARD A SHIP IN KEELUNG. WITH BALDWIN, MORRIS AND
SCHULLER ALL VISITING TAIWAN THIS MONTH, SMITH'S VISIT,
IN OUR VIEW, WOULD OVERLOAD THE CIRCUITS. HE COULD
READILY CONDUCT HIS INSPECTION AT ANOTHER PORT.

4. WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW THE REASON FOR THE VISIT OF THE
31 MARINE AMPHIBIOUS UNIT, THE NUMBER OF TROOPS INVOLVED
AND THE FREQUENCY OF THIS KIND OF VISIT. FRANKLY, WE
ARE SURPRISED THAT VISITS OF MARINES AFLOAT ARE STILL
TAKING PLACE AND, DEPENDING ON THE FACTS, WE INTEND TO
DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS SITUATION.

∴ WE AGREE WITH YOUR RECOMMENDATION ON THE WEST POINT
CADET ORIENTATION VISIT, BUT YOU SHOULD INFORM THE DAO
THAT WE DO NOT WANT THE CADETS TO VISIT THE POLITICAL
WARFARE SCHOOL. WE HAVE TAKEN STEPS TO ENSURE THAT THESE
ANNUAL TRIPS ARE ROUTINELY CLEARED WITH THE DEPARTMENT.
CHRISTOPHER

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